

It should be noted that not all of the "office" components shown in FIG. 1 need be included in the invention, nor need they be located at the same physical site. For example, the components may be located in different buildings. Other configurations may include shared or "virtual" PBX functionality that is available to different customers, who may or may not be located in the same office space, or no

5 PBX functionality at all.

It should be further noted that certain types of message feeds may be omitted or added, and that the invention is not limited to the illustrated selection of voice mail, fax mail, email, and information message feeds. For example, the invention may include notification of text message feeds, such as the short text messages described in co-pending U.S. Appln. No. 09/ 753 340 (NOR-13400).

Moreover, although the above describes an example implementation in which a common server and set of folders is provided for both voice mails and fax mails, the invention is not so limited and such types of message feeds may be maintained separately and/or alternatively.

FIG. 2 illustrates an example of a notification system in accordance with an embodiment of the invention in more detail. It should be noted that various alternatives to the system described below may exist, which alternatives may include fewer or additional components.

As shown in FIG. 2, a notification system 112 includes a notification server 202, a user information store 204, a messaging interface 208, a WAP Push interface 210, an information server interface 212, a wireless interface 220 and a network interface 222.

In one example of the invention, the components of the notification system illustrated in FIG. 2 are commonly provided in a Windows NT server (e.g. a Compaq ProLiant series server computer running Windows NT 4.0), with certain of the components provided as add-in cards and certain other of the components provided as software modules, or combinations thereof. It should be noted that,

communicating with a user's browser via the LAN 108 or the Internet, programmed buttons on a desk phone for signaling to a client application in the LAN 108, etc.) for allowing the user to configure and/or change their message notification filters, preferences and/or notification status. Additionally or alternatively, the change in preferences and/or notification status can be performed in conjunction with 5 a change in presence context, such as that described in co-pending U.S. Appln. No. 09/753340 (NOR-13400).

Message information in store 134 can include a list of all missed messages and/or phone calls for each user. The list includes header information about the messages and/or phone calls, such as 10 sender information, length of message, time/date received, etc. Notification server 202 continually updates this information in response to events forwarded from messaging interface 208 and information interface 212, as will be described in more detail below. Although in this example of the invention, 15 store 134 includes a list of all missed messages and/or phone calls associated with the user, that this is not necessary. For example, store 134 can contain an archive copy of only header information concerning the messages about which the user has been notified via a WAP alert, for example. In such an example, a separate store may be provided that is accessible only to notification server 202 and which contains a list of all messages, whether the user has been notified about them or not.

Messaging interface 208 communicates with VM/FM service 106 and email server 124 via the LAN 108 and an interface such as Microsoft's Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI) / Collaboration Data Objects (CDO) interface and/or non-proprietary interfaces such as the Internet 20 Message Access Protocol (IMAP). The messaging interface 208 uses the folder names received from the notification server 202 (and user information store 204) to subscribe to and/or listen for changes in the contents of the corresponding folders which indicate that a message has been deposited, read and/or